2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Report on the implementation of the action plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Submitted by Romania

1. The present report sets out a general overview of steps and measures undertaken by Romania in the implementation of the action plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

2. During the previous Treaty review cycle, Romania submitted, in 2008, on the occasion of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference, a report with a general overview of steps and measures undertaken by Romania in the implementation of article VI of the Treaty and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

3. Romania reaffirms all the elements of the position of principle contained therein. Accordingly, the present report is focused on the measures undertaken by Romania since the conclusion of the 2010 Review Conference.

4. Throughout the reporting period, Romania continued to fully support the efforts envisaged by the international community towards the elimination of nuclear weapons, to act in line with its non-proliferation policy and commitments and to strongly support the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

5. From this perspective, Romania has undertaken the following main measures and participated in the following activities:

(a) Romania has taken every opportunity, at the bilateral and multilateral levels, to emphasize the importance of the observance of the nuclear non-proliferation commitments undertaken by all States Parties to the Treaty;

(b) Romania was actively engaged in the international effort to strengthen the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, reinforce its implementation and promote its universality during the current Treaty review cycle, including by chairing, on behalf of the Eastern European Group, the second session of the Preparatory Committee in Geneva, in 2013, and Main Committee II during the current Review Conference;

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(c) Romania considers that the main priorities to be pursued in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament remain the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,[1] the negotiation of the fissile material cut-off treaty and the entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.[2] Consequently, Romania encourages all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, to ratify its Amendment and to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

(d) Romania organized, in cooperation with the Provisional Technical Secretariat, two seminars dedicated to the evaluation of the National Data Centres (Bucharest, October 2011 and June 2014). The main objective was to bring experts together to assess the activity of these centres and to find ways to continuously upgrade the system's capabilities;

(e) In 2013, Romania joined the Group of Eminent Persons of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, where eminent personalities and internationally recognized experts, through their expertise, experience and political standing, support and complement efforts to promote the Treaty's entry into force, as well as reinvigorate international endeavours to achieve this goal;

(f) Romania presented its candidature, on behalf of the Eastern European Group, for the position of Chair of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in 2016, which is also the year marking the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty and the establishment of the Preparatory Commission;

(g) Romania is a full and active member of all export control arrangements in the nuclear field — the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee;

(h) Romania has also attached great importance to the exchange of views and the decisions adopted at the recent sessions of the General Assembly regarding nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, supporting and co-sponsoring a number of resolutions dealing with nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. As part of its efforts to promote nuclear disarmament, Romania changed its voting position on the resolution in the First Committee on decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapon systems (de-alerting), from abstention to voting in favour;

(i) All nuclear facilities, activities and materials in Romania are under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) comprehensive safeguards agreements;

(j) Being among the states where the State-level concept in safeguards is applied successfully, Romania strongly supports further efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the efficiency of IAEA safeguards (for example, the installation of remote monitoring systems, which permit a reduction in the number of times inspectors must travel to a facility);

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[1] Romania ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty through Law No. 152/1999, published in the Romanian Official Bulletin No. 478 of 4 October 1999.

[2] Romania ratified the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material through Law No. 419/2006, published in the Romanian Official Bulletin No. 1008 of 19 December 2006.

(k) Romania is one of the beneficiaries of the Second Line of Defense programme, which is carried out by the National Nuclear Security Administration of the Department of Energy of the United States of America with the aim of contributing to the improvement of States' capabilities to prevent, detect and ban illicit trafficking in radioactive material, including at the control points at borders. With reference to this programme, the Romanian Eastern border points (Albiţa, Galaţi) and the harbours (Agigea Sud and Constanţa) were secured. In this way, Romania has the capacity to detect radioactive material at the national borders;

(l) As a member State of the European Union, Romania is party to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community and, since 2010, to the corresponding safeguards agreement and additional protocol to the safeguards agreement concluded in implementation of article III(1) and (4) of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

(m) Romania has used the IAEA peer-review services, being one of the countries that have benefited most from this form of external and independent assessment. Romania received Integrated Regulatory Review Service, Operational Safety Team, International Probabilistic Safety Assessment Review Team, Emergency Preparedness Review and International Physical Protection Advisory Service missions, which made a significant contribution to the development of the national nuclear safety framework and practices. In March 2013, Romania requested support from IAEA to complete a nuclear energy system assessment;

(n) Romania is a strong supporter of the IAEA technical cooperation programme and of the statutory right of any Member State to be eligible for technical cooperation programmes. Romania pays in full and in time all its voluntary financial commitments for the Technical Cooperation Fund. For Romania, in-kind contribution to technical cooperation is a matter of constant development: sharing expertise with other Member States and supporting various IAEA missions with experts, co-financing of national and regional technical cooperation projects and planning to create a regional centre of excellence for nuclear safety;

(o) After the end of the current technical cooperation cycle 2014-2015, Romania intends to gradually reduce its national programmes with a final objective of progressing from the status of technical cooperation beneficiary to that of technical cooperation donor;

(p) Since June 2007, Romania has been implementing the integrated safeguards system, which is currently in place at the Cernavodă nuclear power plant, the nuclear fuel factory in Piteşti and the Feldioara power plant. Throughout this period, some activities were carried out with the aim of fully disseminating and obtaining a deep understanding of the legislative framework and with the purpose of strengthening the control of nuclear safeguards, for complying with the Euratom requirements;

(q) Romania supports the IAEA initiative for the establishment of a low enriched uranium bank, as a mechanism which would ensure the supply of low enriched uranium in order to discourage the establishment of domestic enrichment capabilities;

(r) In December 2012, Romania concluded the repatriation to the Russian Federation of EK-10 low enriched nuclear fuel from the reactor VVR-S (nuclear research and production of radioisotopes) installed at the National Institute of

Physics and Nuclear Engineering Horia Hulubei in Măgurele. The event took place under a decommissioning programme approved and funded by the Romanian Government. The entire quantity of spent nuclear fuel will be processed in the Russian Federation and the resulting radioactive waste will be stored therein. In this context, Romania reiterates its readiness to provide assistance/expertise in the form of lessons learned from the national experience in the areas of conversion from high enriched uranium to low enriched uranium research reactors, high enriched uranium repatriation in the States of origin, radiological safety and the safety/security of radioactive sources;

(s) In March 2014, Romania participated in the Nuclear Security Summit in the Hague and assumed several unilateral commitments whose implementation results will be presented during the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit:

- Receiving an IAEA International Nuclear Security Advisory Service mission from 12 to 16 May 2014
- Hosting, in 2016, an International Physical Protection Advisory Service mission as a follow-up to the mission conducted by IAEA in 2012. The recommendations issued by the Advisory Service are now under implementation. A practical exercise was also organized at the Cernavodă nuclear power plant
- Making a voluntary contribution of 30,000 euros to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund.